

CLAIMS

1. A packing sleeve (10) having an outer lateral surface (14) for a printing unit cylinder (12) of an offset printing press, characterised in that the outer lateral surface (14) has at least one region (38) with an area (20) having a number of incisions (22), which increase the elasticity of the packing sleeve (10) in the peripheral direction (24).
2. A packing sleeve (10) according to claim 1, characterised in that the incisions (22) run substantially parallel to the figure axis (16) of the packing sleeve (10).
3. A packing sleeve (10) according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the incisions (22) in the area (20) are arranged along lines, incisions (22) of adjacent lines lying offset with respect to one another.
4. A packing sleeve (10) according to claim 3, characterised in that the ratio of the length of the incisions (22) to the spacing of adjacent lines amounts to a number between 5.00 and 50.00.
5. A packing sleeve (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the region (38) extends substantially over the entire outer lateral surface (14).
6. A packing sleeve (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the width of the incisions (22) is sufficiently small that a printing plate to be received on the packing sleeve (10) is not deformed during printing mode.

7. A packing sleeve (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the packing sleeve (10) has a slot (18) in the outer lateral surface (14) for receiving edges (28) of a plate-form printing plate or of a printing blanket.
8. A packing sleeve (10) according to claim 6, characterised in that an area (19) surrounding the slot (18) has no incisions (22).
9. A packing sleeve (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the packing sleeve (10) consists of steel or aluminium.
10. Use of a packing sleeve (10) according to any one of the preceding claims for enlarging the effective outer diameter of a printing unit cylinder (12) in an offset printing press, by drawing the packing sleeve (10) over the printing unit cylinder (12) in the offset printing press.